



THE Lantern

June 2016

Volume 21 Number 6

25th Tallahassee Show & Sale: New Vendors, New Partners – WFSU, State Museum & Amtrak Supporters - & Philly Cheese Steak

Set-Up – Friday, June 24, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

BBMRA President Andy Zimmerman will be opening up Building 2 and Building 4 at the Leon County Fairgrounds at 8 a.m. Friday, June 24, for club members who want to set up layouts and “early bird” vendors and there always are a couple, at least. Andy needs BBMRA members to help the early birds unload. There will be a lot of other jobs, including adjusting table arrangements, installing extension cords and who knows what else. Many other vendors arrive in the afternoon, so BBMRA volunteers will be needed all day.

The Large Scale Division will be staging its T Traks and Disney Two layout Friday at 9 a.m. Coordinator Sam Miller asks that members meet at the Fairgrounds and help unload vehicles brought by Sam and Doug Gyuriscko. If you have T Traks and inserts, please remember to bring them.

HO coordinator Art Wilson reports: “Hey Sam: We are planning to meet at 1 p.m. on Friday the 24th to set up and check out everything. Our group will operate and breakdown after 4 p.m..on Saturday. We will also be helping in the ticket booth and doing anything else as needed.”

The N Scale folks will begin their set-up Friday morning. Garth Easton has details.

Sal Martocci says the Live Steamers will meet at the Fairgrounds in the early afternoon. Ron and Karla Fletcher will be running Garden Railroad trains and getting them in place Friday. Randy Lombardo plans to stage Thomas the Tank Engine in the afternoon. Joe Haley will, of course, be bringing the Time Saver.

Set-Up Saturday, June 25, 8 a.m.

Vendors will be allowed to complete their work. BBMRA members will be allowed in to complete theirs and get an early look at vendor wares. We need volunteers throughout Saturday for the ticket booth, admission supervision, security throughout the two buildings and general trouble-shooting. There is a report below on whom BBMRA members should contact to volunteer their time.

*** BBMRA Meetings ***

June 21, 2016: 7:30 p.m. “Third Tuesday” BBMRA Meeting – Final Planning, 25th Annual Show & Sale Last Things to Do for June 25 Show & Sale – club and division meetings.

July 19, 2016: 7:30 p.m.

Third Tuesday-BBMRA - Dues Renewals; Critique of 25th Annual Show. We will be collecting dues and updating our roster.

“Old” Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive.

TALLAHASSEE MODEL RAILROAD SHOW & SALE

Saturday June 25, 2016 -- North Florida Fairgrounds, Buildings 2 & 4 -- 9 am to 4 pm
Adults & Children 13 and older: \$6 -- Children 12 and younger are free -- Free Parking



2015 Tallahassee Train Show, Saturday, June 25

The show will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tear-Down, Saturday, June 25, 4 p.m.

Tear-down begins at 4 p.m. and will continue until the last vendor is out. We will need lots of help breaking down.

Our show is almost here. Please support Andy Zimmerman, Sheldon Harrison and other club leaders. Step up as John Sullenberger would have expected and – in his honor – ensure that we have another outstanding show and sale!

June Meeting to be Devoted to Last-minute Planning for the show

The regular June meeting, the third Tuesday, is the Tuesday before our annual show and sale, by luck of the draw and calendar. It was not necessary to reschedule the meeting for the fourth Tuesday as is the club's custom. Tuesday, June 21, is three days before the show weekend. We will devote the entire meeting to last minute planning for the show. There will be division meetings as well as the club-wide meeting. We still need volunteers, volunteers and more volunteers.

What's New This Year? WFSU's Dinosaur Train, State Museum & Other Activities

This is our Silver Anniversary show. BBMRA has partnered with WFSU Broadcasting, Florida State University, for years, operating Randy Lombardo's Thomas the Tank Engine layout whenever WFSU conducts its Thomas & Friends Day. Our club also has been a regular at Children's Day at the Museum of Florida History (State Museum). WFSU and the State Museum are reciprocating and will have exhibits at our train show. WFSU is presenting the Dinosaur Train and Thomas and Friends and the State Museum will be promoting special programs for children and upcoming major events.

Barrett Johnson is coordinating with the City of Tallahassee over an exhibit promoting the return of Amtrak passenger rail service to Tallahassee, something strongly supported by BBMRA.

Lisa Blair and her son, Matthew, are fine active members of our club and Lisa was appointed by President Zimmerman last year as youth outreach coordinator. Lisa will direct two tables at this year's anniversary show emphasizing that club members will operate model trains and conduct workshops on the hobby at schools and other occasions when special activities for youth people and their parents are under way. She also will be promoting membership in the Big Bend Model Railroad Association. Over the years, the show and sale have been the prime source for new members.

Some new Vendors and Some Old Ones

Some of our long-time vendors are not participating this year because of conflicts with bigger shows, but at least two have committed to coming back for the 2017 show. Many other regular vendors are back, including Trains by Johnson, Pensacola; Tucker's Trains; Porky & Aven Bacon; Ron DeVincenzo, Orlando; Ed's Boxcars, Opelika, AL; and Crusader Hobbies.

We also have several new vendors, including Joe's Railfanning, Joe Navatil, Roanoke, AL., real railroad items; Sinbad Glue, Palmetto, FL.; Dewey Smith, Homerville, GA., selling his personal N gauge collection; and Mike Appleby, Crawfordville, real railroad memorabilia.

Andy Zimmerman is still talking with several other folks and we expect at least some additional participation. This category includes 911 Collectibles and Ringo Circus, Washington, D.C.

About a dozen BBMRA members have purchased tables and will be selling model railroading items, mainly good quality used items. This is the most in some time.

A complete list of vendors, exhibitors and operating layouts is posted below.

To Pledge Your Time and Support:

For general volunteering, contact BBMRA President Andy Zimmerman: GBTrainman@comcast.net

To work in the ticket booth, contact Andy Millott: millott32073@hotmail.com

To help with the vendors, contact BBMRA Vice President Sheldon Harrison: Sheldon_harrison@comcast.net

To help with HO activities, contact Art Wilson: awilson177@comcast.net

To help with N Scale Activities, contact Garth Easton: gweaston@hotmail.com

To help with Large Scale Activities, contact Sam Miller: smiller@flains.org

To help with the Time Saver, contact Joe Haley: jhaley3rd@msn.com

To help with Thomas the Tank Engine, contact Randy Lombardo: penncentralpatriach@comcast.net

To help with the Live Steamers, contact Sal Martocci: sal.martocci@gmail.com

On Our Own/Important Notes on BBMRA Members

Mitchell Green in Big Bend Hospice

More sad news about one of our members. Mitchell Green is in Big Bend Hospice in very critical condition. Mitchell is alert, although weak, according to club members Andy Zimmerman, David Blodgett and David Brazell, who visited him this week.

Mitchell would like to have visitors, but his family asks that you first contact a nephew, Steven Robbins, 413-8466. Big Bend Hospice is located at 1723 Mahan Center Blvd., off Riggins Road in northeast Tallahassee.

Mitchell is being treated for multiple serious conditions. He was hospitalized for several days before being moved to Hospice. There was slight improvement earlier this week.

Mitchell has been in BBMRA for years, interested in mainly HO and Veterans Memorial Railroad in Bristol. He has acted as the club's liaison with VMRR the last couple of years. Mitchell is in his mid-50's, we believe

Eric Ecklund Back Home in Crawfordville

Eric Ecklund finally returned to his home in Crawfordville late last month after weeks in Tallahassee Memorial and Centerpoint Rehabilitation Hospital recovering from a broken leg. Eric continues to make good progress in his recovery, but won't have tables or an operating layout at our show June 25 for the first time in years. Eric does hope to attend the show and we will be looking for him.

Claude Hinson, Tallahassee Lionel Modeling Pioneer, Passes Away

Friends are saddened by the passing June 5, of Claude Hinson, who was one of the earliest Lionel modelers in Tallahassee and a member of BBMRA at various times during the years. Claude was 68 and had lived in Marianna the last couple of years.

Claude was one of the key active members in the first organized Lionel interest group in Tallahassee in the late 1970's, with current BBMRA members Jack Herzog and Mel McCarthy and several others, including Ray Lewis and retired Florida State University history professor Don Horward.

The guys were all members of TCA and traveled together to TCA events in Cottdonale in West Florida, Dothan, Atlanta, Howey-in-the Hills near Orlando and other locations. "Ray Lewis had one of the old really big, really comfortable Cadillacs and we would go in that," Jack Herzog remembers. "Claude was very generous with his friends."

Claude was always an avid Lionel and O gauge modeler. In recent years, he was also active in Live Steam and seven-and-a-half-inch gauge. He was building a Live Steam railroad at his home in Crawfordville when disabled by serious illness a couple of years ago.

Tallahassee Model Railroading History

Ray Lewis and Mike Sassard, a BBMRA member now living in California, worked with Sim Dekle to create the Heartland Express, which became the focus of the second major Lionel Interest Group in Tallahassee, in the 1980's and 90's.

Jack Herzog and I will be writing articles on the history of model railroading in Tallahassee for The Lantern this fall. Our research included notes and tape recordings from meetings with Tallahassee HO pioneers Vernon Parramore and Dave Kerns.

Sam Miller

Confirmed Vendors, Exhibitors, Layouts for 2016 Model Train Show

BBMRA President Andy Zimmerman provided this list of vendors, exhibitors and operating layouts confirmed so far. Additional show participants are still possible.

Confirmed Vendors:

Trains by Johnson, Pensacola, all scales, past vendor.

Tucker's Trains, HO & N Scale detail parts, past vendor.

Porky & Aven Bacon, t-shirts, hats, etc., past vendor.

Ron DeVincenzo, Orlando, all scales, heavy on O gauge, past vendor

Ed's Boxcars, Opelika, AL, HO & N, past vendor.

Tom Lacher, Crusader Hobbies, shelves and wall units, HO & N, past vendor.

Joe Ray, N scale, past vendor.

Sinbad Glue, Palmetto, FL., a new vendor.

Dale Kisbaugh, all scales, past vendor. Dale is selling the N Scale collection of our late, wonderful president John Sullenberger.

Richard Passaur, Cantonment, FL., G Gauge and O Gauge, past vendor.

Dewey Smith, Homerville, GA., two tables, N gauge, a new vendor.

Sissy's Jewels, past vendor.

Mike Appleby, Crawfordville, real railroad memorabilia , two tables, a new vendor.

Kenneth Meadows, HO & N, last year.

Larry Weigle, HO, past vendor.

Chris Lucibello, St. Petersburg, S gauge, last year.

David Roche, all gauges, last year.

Joe's Railfanning, Joe Navatil, Roanoke, AL., real railroad items, new vendor.

BBMRA Member Vendors:

Sam Miller, HO and O gauge, last year. Sam is selling DCC locomotives from the collection of former BBMRA member Roy Mantooth, now living near Knoxville, TN.

Doug Gyuricsko, , antique toys, collectible vehicles and kits.

David Brazell, HO and videos, last year.

Ed Buist, HO, new vendor.

Bob Ruggles, N gauge, previous vendor.

John Sykes, HO, previous vendor.

Tod Tait, new vendor.

Mike Carroll, new.

David Blodgett, HO, new.

Confirmed Exhibitors:

Lisa Blair, BBMRA's Outreach to Schools and other Youth Activities.

West Gadsden Historical, last year.

West Florida Railroad Museum, Milton, Ed Dice.

Pensacola Model Railroad Club and Railfest, Louis Holliday, Navarre, FL., new.

WFSU Television, new participant.

Museum of Florida History, new participant.

Operating Layouts/BBMRA:

Live Steam

N Gauge T Traks

HO T Traks

O Gauge T Traks

Disney - O Gauge

Ron & Karla Fletcher – G Gauge

Randy Lombardo's Thomas the Tank Engine

Timesaver/Joe Haley.

Large Scale Division Sales Table

Once again this year, we are setting aside a table near the O Gauge T Trak layout for members of the Large Scale Division with personal things to sell. The only condition is that you help out with the T Traks or other Large Scale layouts at some point. The division table will be in the group of tables purchased by me and Doug Gyuricsko. Bring whatever you have for sale – any scale – and you can put it on the table. We will limit this to a few items per person. You can drop off items as early as Friday morning and then pick them up or the money late Saturday. Each item must be marked with your name and the sale price. Use a string tag so it can be pulled off to help us keep up with what sells. Some of these tags will be available at the table.

Sam Miller

Show Tidbits/ Hot Dog Man Becomes Philly Cheese Man

Randy Spires, “the Hot Dog Man,” will be our principal food vendor for another year. He has worked all of our shows in recent years. He is expanding his offerings to include Philly cheese steak sandwiches.

Well we are on Train talk TV.... going out worldwide....

Hi Andy,

I have just listed your upcoming Event, '25th Annual Tallahassee Model Railroad Show & Sale', on our 'Next Weekend' Page at <http://www.traintalk.tv/train-events-next-weekend/>. It, (and 30 other events worldwide), will also show up on the event listings in our iPhone and Android Apps and be sent directly to subscribers of our 'Railway Weekender' - our weekly railroad events newsletter.

Thanks for watching! P.S. As of today, over 1.5 Million people have downloaded and watched TrainTalk.TV!

Neil Enock, CCBW, Host and Producer

Local Advertising

The “earned,” or “free” media” Andy Zimmerman and others promote for our show is very important, but so is selected paid advertising to supplement it. BBMRA this year purchased advertising on Freedom Radio, Faith Radio and in The Limelight in The Tallahassee Democrat.

BBMRA Meeting Minutes for May 17, 2016

President Andy Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:38 P.M.

We have a returning member rejoining the ranks of narrow gage Live Steam! Michael Carryl.

Meeting minutes of April 19th 2016 were accepted as is, with one abstaining!

Treasurers Report: President Zimmerman reporting for Drew Hackmeyer; we are in the black.

New Business: Mitchell Green reminded us the Veterans Memorial Railroad will be running this year on Halloween and Christmas.

Large Scale: Sam Miller reports Eric Ecklund should be back home soon.

HO Scale: Art Wilson reports the HO T Trak system has two new extra corner modules. Testing is in progress tonight on the existing modules.

Small Scale: Garth Easton reports one more work party to finish an N scale large module is needed; the date to be announced.

Switching: Joe Haley reports the switching layout is ready to go. (Joe's input will be needed for a new switching layout).

Education Coordinator: Lisa Blair reports working on the youth railroad program may have 4-H members along with scouting people. We know Barrett Johnson has experience with the scouts merit badges for railroading.

Good of the Group: This year's 25th show details were being worked on for- exhibitors, vendor table locations, vendors committed, layout and T Trak display locations. Volunteer lists for various positions being accepted during the night. President Zimmerman acknowledged help from members on the show, vendors and new exhibitors that Sam Miller has contacted.

Program: Tonight's program presented by Andy Millott; All about interchanges. Andy Millott does detailed research into this experience, as he does with all his previous demonstrations for model railroading. Thank you Andy for this, and working on the ticket booth volunteer list.

I counted 33 present tonight. Note; the next meeting will be the last one before our 25th show.

Respectfully submitted by **Doug Gyuricsko**.

"The LANTERN" is the official publication of the BIG BEND MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION, INC. and is published monthly just prior to each regularly scheduled meeting. Subscriptions are included in all members' dues. The deadline to submit materials for publication is the first Tuesday of the publication month (unless otherwise noted) sent to: BBMRA, Attn: Editor, PO Box 3392, Tallahassee, FL 32315-3392 or e-mailed to smiller@flains.org